Sri Yaganti Uma Maheshwara Temple, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

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Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc

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AI Overview

The Sri Yaganti Uma Maheswara Temple, located in the Kurnool district (near Banaganapalle) of Andhra Pradesh, is an ancient 15th-century temple famous for its growing Nandi idol and, uniquely, worshipping Lord Shiva as an idol (Ardhanareeswara) rather than a Linga. Built by Vijayanagara Sangama kings, it is renowned for its Pushkarini (natural pond), surrounding caves, and the mysterious, ever-growing stone Nandi.

Key Details and Features:

- **Growing Nandi:** The stone idol of Nandi is famously believed to be increasing in size over time. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) reports suggest it grows by about 1 inch every 20 years, leading to the removal of a temple pillar.
- **Unique Deity:** Instead of a traditional Shiva Linga, the main deity is worshipped in the form of Ardhanareeswara (Shiva and Parvati combined in one stone).
- **Natural Architecture:** The temple is nestled in the Erramala hills. A unique feature is the *Pushkarini*, a water pond where water flows year-round from the mouth of a Nandi, with no known source.
- **Caves:** The complex features natural caves dedicated to Sage Agastya, Lord Venkateswara, and Potuluri Veera Brahmendra Swamy.
- **Legends:** It is believed that Sage Agastya intended to build a temple for Vishnu, but found the idol's toenail broken, leading him to pray to Shiva, who chose this location instead.
- **Location:** The temple is approximately 100 km from Kurnool and can be accessed via Banaganapalle.

Visitor Information:

- **Timing:** The temple is generally open early morning to late evening, though it closes in the afternoon.
- **Best Time to Visit:** September to February, when the weather is cool.
- **Nearby Attractions:** Belum Caves, Mahanandi.

The temple is also associated with the prophecy of Potuluri Veera Brahmendra Swamy, who foretold that the Nandi will come alive at the end of the Kali Yuga.

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Sri Yaganti Uma Maheshwara Temple (also known as Sri Uma Maheswara Swamy Temple or Yaganti Temple) is an ancient and highly revered Hindu temple in Andhra Pradesh, dedicated to Lord Shiva (Uma Maheshwara) and Goddess Parvati.

It is famous for its growing Nandi idol (believed to increase in size over centuries), mysterious caves, and unique features where devotees experience strong spiritual vibrations.

The temple is managed by the Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department and attracts thousands of pilgrims for its mystical aura and historical significance.

Location and Address

Village/Town: Yaganti (Yaganti Village), Banaganapalle Mandal, Nandyal District (formerly part of Kurnool District), Andhra Pradesh, India.

Full Address: Sri Uma Maheswara Swamy Temple, Yaganti, Banaganapalle Mandal, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh - 518124.

Phone Numbers: Limited official contact; general inquiries via Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department helpline or local: +91-85000 85151 (common pilgrim contact line mentioned in sources).

For latest, call Andhra Pradesh Temples helpline or check aptemples.org.
PIN: 518124.

How to Get There

By Road: Well-connected; frequent APSRTC buses from Kurnool (~90 km), Nandyal (~50–60 km), or Banaganapalle (15–20 km). Private taxis/cabs from Kurnool (₹1500–2500 round trip) or Hyderabad (~300 km). The temple is in Yerramala Hills, with a scenic drive through forests and rocky terrain.

By Rail: Nearest station – Nandyal Junction (~50–60 km) or Kurnool City (~90 km) on major routes.

By Air: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad (~300 km) or Kadapa Airport (~150 km). Best by road from Kurnool/Nandyal.

Distance References: ~90 km from Kurnool city, ~50 km from Nandyal, in a hilly forest area.

Greatness of This Temple

One of the most mystical Shiva temples in Andhra Pradesh, dating back to the 5th–7th centuries (Vijayanagara-era renovations in 15th century).

Key greatness points:

Growing Nandi Idol: The stone Nandi (bull vehicle of Shiva) is believed to grow ~0.5 inches every 20 years (per devotees and measurements); touching its back is said to fulfill wishes.

No roof over Nandi: Legend says when the roof was attempted, the Nandi grew, causing it to crack — so left open-air.

Caves and Pushkarini: Three natural caves (Akka Madanna Cave, Potuluri Veerabrahmendra Swamy Cave, etc.) with ancient idols; sacred Pushkarini (pond) where water level remains constant despite usage.

Uma Maheshwara Idol: Unique murti form of Shiva (not Linga) with Parvati, carved from single stone; believed to be self-manifested or ancient.

Attracts devotees for wish fulfillment, protection, and spiritual energy; famous for "Yaganti Nandi" mystery and peaceful hilly setting.

Architecture

Dravidian style with Vijayanagara influences (15th century additions).

Features:

- Intricate stone carvings on pillars, mandapas, and walls.
- Three natural caves integrated into the temple complex.
- Open-air Nandi mandapa (no roof due to legend).
- Sacred Pushkarini and rocky hill surroundings.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

Main Deity: Sri Uma Maheshwara Swamy (Lord Shiva in murti form with Goddess Parvati/Uma, in a graceful seated posture).

Sub-Deities/Shrines:

- Growing Nandi (prominent, open-air).
- Sri Venkateswara Swamy (separate shrine).

- Sri Parvati (with main deity).
- Other cave shrines: Akka Madanna Cave, Veerabrahmendra Swamy Cave, etc.

Daily Poojas and Rituals (Timings)

Timings (may vary slightly; confirm locally):

Temple Open: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or 7:00 AM–11:00 AM & 3:00 PM–8:00 PM in some sources).

Daily Rituals:

Suprabhata Seva: 6:00 AM
Abhishekam: 6:30–7:30 AM
Alankarana & Maha Harathi: 11:00 AM–12:00 PM
Evening Aarti/Pooja: Around 7:00–8:00 PM

Special Poojas, Sevas, and Charges

Abhishekam: ₹100
Vahana Pooja (vehicles): ₹100 (four-wheelers)
Special Darshan/Archana/Sparsa: ₹50
Laghunyasa Purvaka Rudrabhishekam: ₹250
Mahanyasa Purvaka Rudrabhishekam: Higher (contact temple)

Other: Aksharabhyasam, etc. (nominal). Charges are approximate and donation-based; check at counter or aptemples.org for latest.

Festivals

Maha Shivaratri — Major celebration with special poojas, abhishekams, and crowds.
Kartika Masam (November) — Deepotsava and lighting.
Brahmotsavam and other annual utsavams.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Limited on-site (basic rooms/dharamshala for pilgrims; book via temple or local)

Better accommodation in Kurnool or Nandyal (hotels/lodges).

Temple provides prasadam/annaprasadam during visits.

No advance online booking widely available; first-come basis.

Donation Info and Bank Details

Donations for temple maintenance, renovations, and sevas via hundi or direct.

Managed by Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department; online via aptemples.org or tourism.ap.gov.in if schemes available.

Bank details: Contact temple/endowments for specific accounts (often State Bank or similar; no public fixed numbers online — inquire at +91-85000 85151 or local office).

Tax benefits possible for eligible donations.

Nearby Temples

- Sri Mahanandi Temple (~50–60 km) — One of Pancha Ramas.
- Sri Ahobilam Temple (~100 km) — Narasimha kshetra.
- Sri Belum Caves area temples.

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

- Yerramala Hills and surrounding caves/rock formations — Trekking and nature.
- Belum Caves (~60–70 km) — Second-longest caves in India.
- Gandikota ("Grand Canyon of India") (~100–120 km) — Gorge and fort.
- Mahanandi hot springs and temple complex.

Nearby Budget Hotels

In Banaganapalle/Nandyal/Kurnool: Basic lodges/homestays near temple (~₹800–1500/night).

Hotel Mourya Inn or similar in Nandyal/Kurnool — Budget options.

APTDC Haritha hotels in nearby areas.

Any Other Info

Mystery & Beliefs: Nandi growing legend (scientifically debated but devotionally strong);

temple in forest/hilly area — carry water/snacks.

Best Time: October–March (pleasant); avoid summer heat.

Note: Photography inside restricted; respect silence and rules.

This mystical Shiva-Parvati kshetra is ideal for devotees seeking peace and miracles

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Ref: Google Gemini

The Sri Yaganti Uma Maheswara Temple in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh is one of India's most fascinating spiritual sites, renowned for its architectural beauty and several scientific mysteries.

1. Key Highlights & Mysteries

* **The Growing Nandi (Basavanna):** The most famous feature is the monolithic Nandi statue. Local legend and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) confirm that it grows in size—approximately 1 inch every 20 years.
* **Scientific Reason**: Geologists explain that the rock contains silica and iron minerals that expand when they react with moisture in the air.
* **The Prophecy**: According to the Kalagnanam (prophecies) of Saint Potuluri Veera Brahmendra Swamy, this Nandi will come to life and let out a great shout at the end of the Kali Yuga.
* **No Crows in Yaganti**: You will notice a complete absence of crows here.
* **The Legend**: Sage Agastya was once disturbed by crows while performing penance. He cursed them, saying they could never enter the area. Interestingly, because crows are the "vahanas" (vehicles) of Lord Shani (Saturn), it is believed that the ill effects of Saturn do not touch those who visit this temple.

* **Akasha Deepam**: Every evening, a lamp is lit on a high, narrow ledge behind the temple. It is a mystery how the lamp remains lit despite the strong winds in the Yerramala hills.

2. The Ancient Caves

The temple is surrounded by natural caves that hold deep spiritual significance:

* **Agastya Cave**: Accessed via 120 steep steps, this is where Sage Agastya performed penance. It houses an idol of Goddess Devi.

* **Venkateswara Cave:** Contains a damaged idol of Lord Venkateswara. Legend says this idol was carved before the one in Tirupati, but because its big toe was broken, it could not be worshipped as the primary deity. It is considered an alternative to Tirupati.

* **Veera Brahmam Cave:** This is the quiet spot where the famous saint Potuluri Veera Brahmendra Swamy stayed and wrote his book of prophecies, the Kalagnanam.

3. Architecture & Deities

* **Unique Idol:** Unlike most Shiva temples that house a Lingam, Yaganti features an idol of Uma Maheswara (Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati together) carved out of a single stone.

* **Pushkarini**: A temple tank where fresh water flows year-round from the mouth of a stone Nandi. The source of this water remains unknown, but it is considered holy and sweet.

* **Patronage**: While ancient in origin (5th–6th century), much of the grand structure we see today was built by the Vijayanagara Kings (Harihara and Bukka Raya) in the 15th century.

4. Visitor Information

* **Timings**:
  * Morning: 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM
  * Evening: 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Caves usually close around 5:00 PM).

* **Entry: Free.**

* **Annadanam**: The temple provides free lunch (Annadanam) to devotees, typically between 11:00 AM and 2:30 PM.

* **Best Time** to Visit: September to March. Maha Shivaratri and the month of Karthika Masam are the most festive times.

5. How to Reach

* **From Kurnool**: Approximately 80–90 km away. You can take a direct bus or a taxi (roughly 1.5 to 2 hours).

* **From Nandyal**: This is the closest major town (about 50 km). Frequent buses and autos are available from here.

* **Nearest Rail**: Nandyal Railway Station.

* **Nearest Air**: Kurnool Airport (UJ) or Tirupati Airport (TPT).

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In 2026, Maha Shivaratri falls on Sunday, February 15.
Route from Kurnool to Yaganti…. here is a detailed travel guide:

1. Travel Route: Kurnool to Yaganti

The distance is approximately 77 km to 90 km (depending on the exact route) and usually takes 1.5 to 2.5 hours.

* **By Car/Taxi (Fastest):**

  * **Route**: Kurnool → Nandyal Road → Banaganapalle → Yaganti.

  * **Time**: ~1 hour 15 minutes to 1.5 hours.

  * **Cost**: Approximately ₹1,700 – ₹2,100 for a one-way taxi.

* **By Bus (Economical**):

* Direct: There are some APSRTC buses from Kurnool to Banaganapalle.

* From Banaganapalle: Yaganti is just 11 km away. You can easily find local "share-autos" or small shuttle buses from Banaganapalle bus stand to the temple for about ₹10–₹20.

* By Train:

* Take a train from Kurnool City to Nandyal or Betamcherla.
* Nandyal is a major station about 50 km from Yaganti. From there, you can take a bus or taxi to the temple.

2. Planning for Maha Shivaratri (Feb 15, 2026)

This is the biggest festival at the temple. If you plan to visit on this day:

* **Timings**: The temple is open for Jagaran (all-night vigil). The most auspicious time is the Nishita Kaal Puja, which will occur at midnight between Feb 15 and Feb 16 (approx. 12:10 AM – 1:00 AM).

* **Crowds**: Expect thousands of devotees. Local transport and parking will be very busy, so arriving early in the afternoon is recommended.

* **Annadanam**: The temple usually serves free meals, but on festival days, there might be specific schedules for the distribution of Prasadam.

3. Suggested 1-Day Itinerary from Kurnool

If you have a full day, you can combine Yaganti with other nearby sites:

* Morning (8:00 AM): Depart Kurnool for Belum Caves (approx. 110 km from Kurnool). These are the second-largest caves in India.

* Midday: Drive from Belum Caves to Yaganti (about 45 km / 1 hour).

* Lunch: Have the free Annadanam (lunch) at the temple (usually 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM).

* Afternoon: Explore the Yaganti Temple, the Growing Nandi, and climb the Agastya and Venkateswara caves.

* Evening: Watch the Akasha Deepam being lit at sunset before heading back to Kurnool.

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Photos

ASI monument

Venkateswara cave

Main Gopuram

Ancient Tulsi Kata

Pusharini

Hills around the temple

Yaganti Nadi believed to be growing

Water comes in through Nandi

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Videos

Yaganti temple …Teerthayatra (13 min):

https://youtu.be/5wvL9TjCrJ4?si=H4XiQiYF11kyAlo7

Yaganti temple (4 min): https://youtu.be/s9zjq-PSLWY?si=s3y8ujS4AxKWT-AO

Yaganti temple (27 min):https://youtu.be/PKYa3AizfK8?si=lBtX2TWKtUzhyRgv

Yaganti temples' seven greatest mysteries (14 min):

https://youtu.be/EXTYnO0IaQU?si=z4jZzCRzkPNr6BAE

Exploring the mystical Yaganti temple (6 min):

https://youtu.be/xNk3fyoO29E?si=lIB_rnHP7lN6bU3v

Yaganti temple (13 min):https://youtu.be/Nrqy02lXFbU?si=wyhIQAMjfheii-JW

Yaganti temple - full history (1 min):

https://youtu.be/Twbqb8pAhLI?si=kBKOm6U1O5vxI_-R

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
January 26, 2026

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